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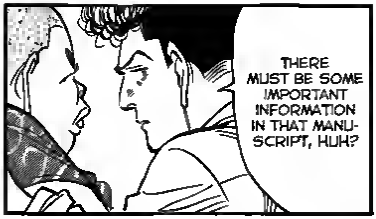
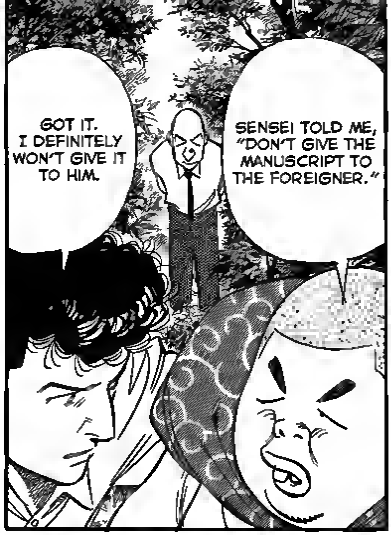
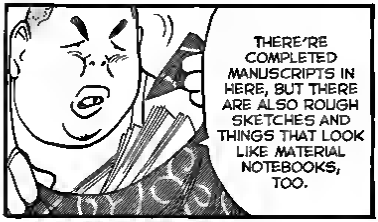
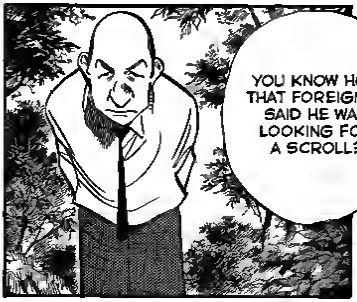
AT KOUMORI VILLAGE, KEVIN, JACKIE, MOMOCHI AND YAMASHITA-KUN SEARCH FOR ZOFUU. BUT WHAT ARE THE TRUE INTENTIONS OF THEIR CAPTIVE, DEVIVIE?!

COULDN'T YOU UNTIE MY HANDS?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO CLIMB THIS MOUNTAIN TRAIL LIKE THIS.
SORRY, BUT I'LL NEED YOU TO KEEP GOING LIKE THAT FOR NOW.
GUHA!!
'CAUSE I STILL BARELY TRUST YOU AT ALL.
YAMASHITA-KUN, WE'LL KEEP MOVING AHEAD,
BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE ZOFUU-SENSEI MIGHT BE?
.....
WHAT IS IT?
I CAN'T .. SAY I REALLY DO, BUT..
I CAN'T LET THAT GUY HEAR.


THERE MUST BE SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN THAT MANUSCRIPT, HUH?

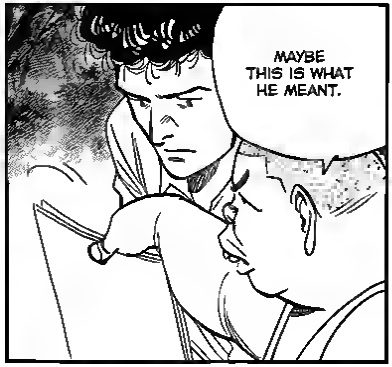

SENSEI TOLD ME, "DON'T GIVE THE MANUSCRIPT TO THE FOREIGNER."
GOT IT. I DEFINITELY WON'T GIVE IT TO HIM.

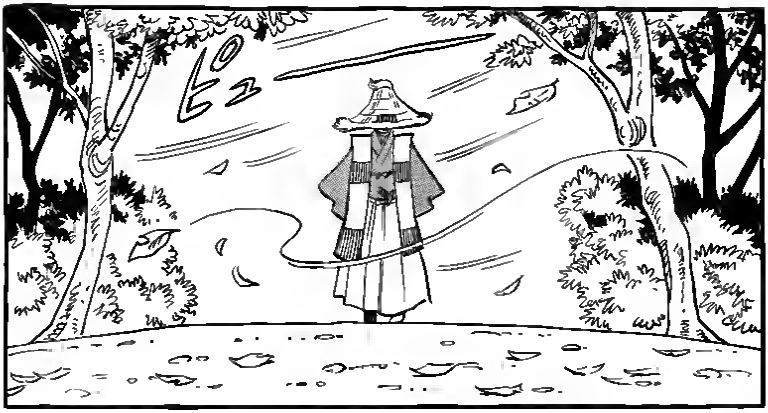

THERE'RE COMPLETED MANUSCRIPTS IN HERE, BUT THERE ARE ALSO ROUGH SKETCHES AND THINGS THAT LOOK LIKE MATERIAL NOTEBOOKS, TOO.


YOU KNOW HOW THAT FOREIGNER SAID HE WAS LOOKING FOR A SCROLL?

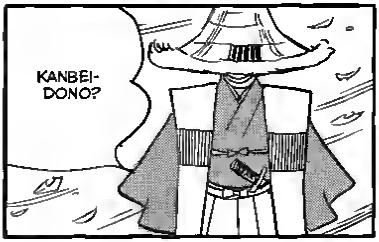
I FOUND THIS IN THERE.

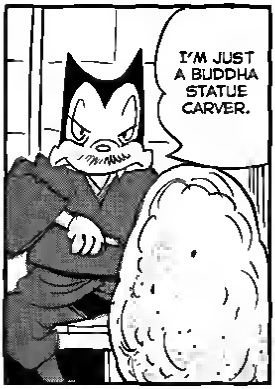
.....!!


MAYBE THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT.


LO
LO

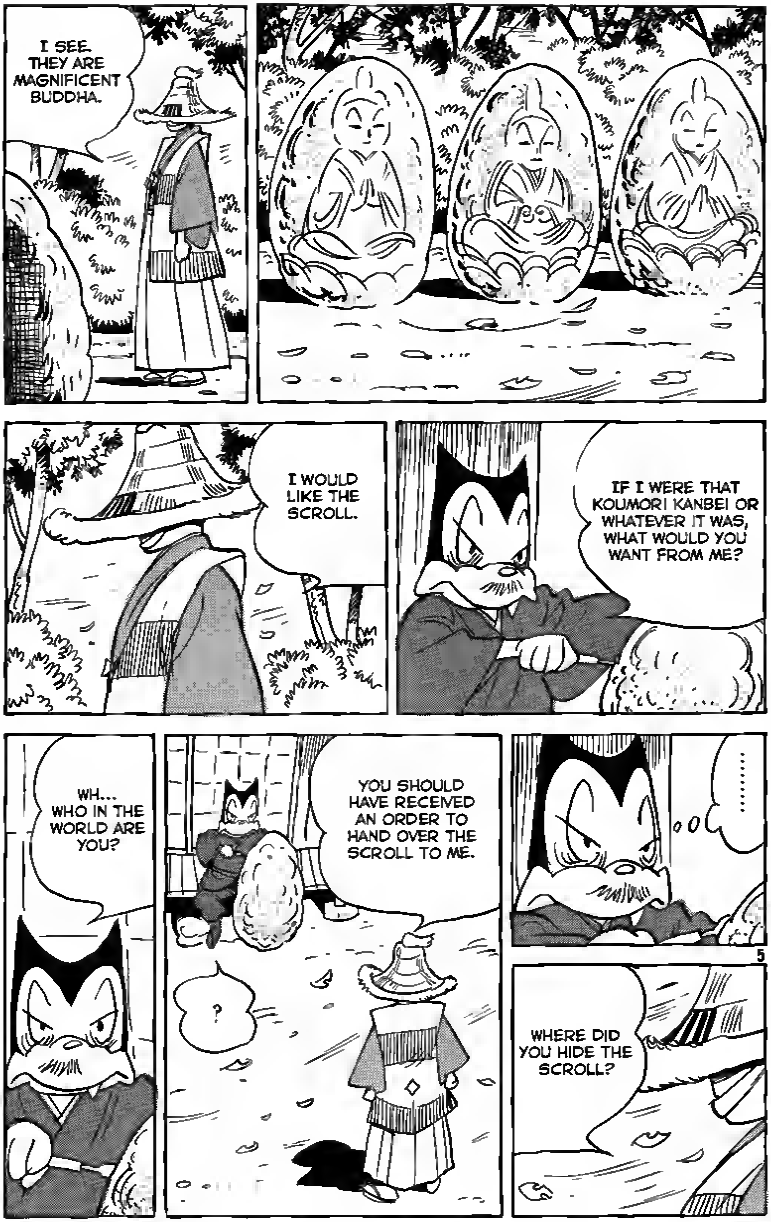
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE, TRAVELER?


KANBEI-DONO?

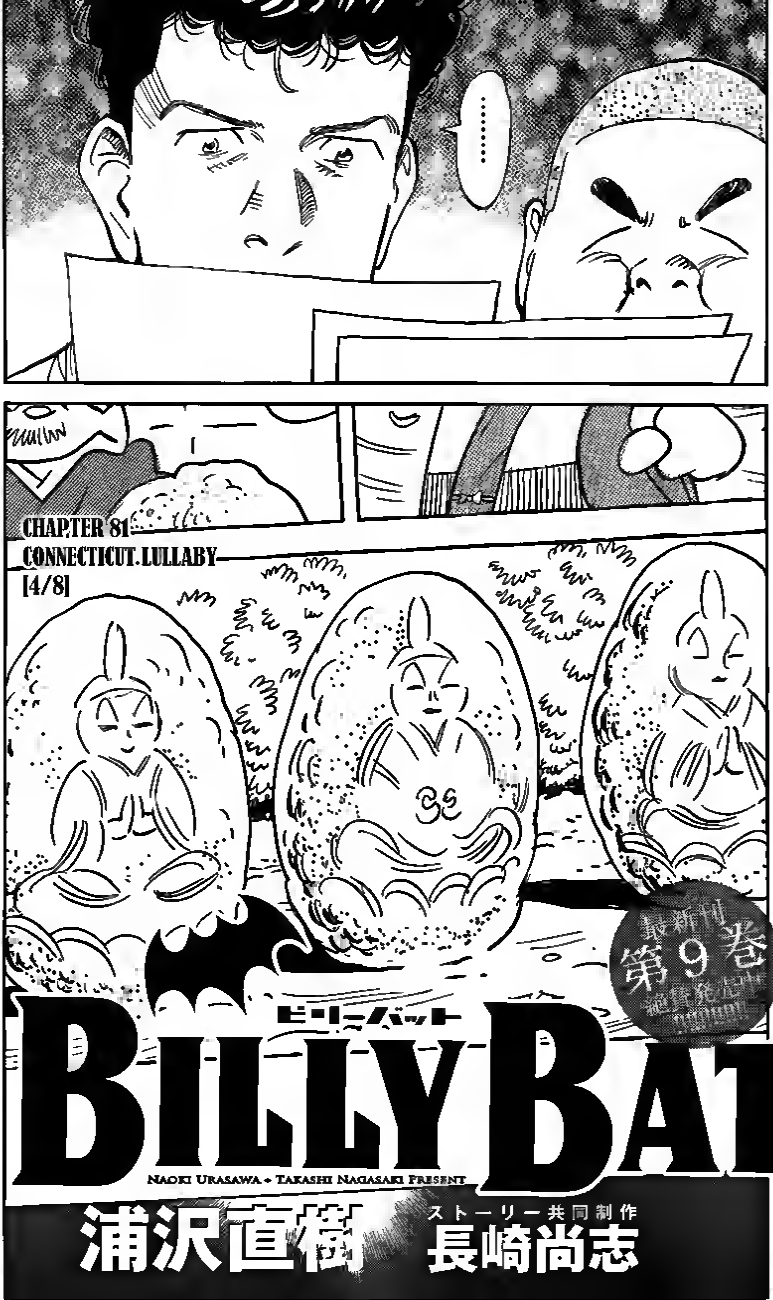

I'M JUST A BUDDHA STATUE CARVER.

ARE YOU KOUMORI KANBEI-DONO?
PLEASE ANSWER MY QUESTION.

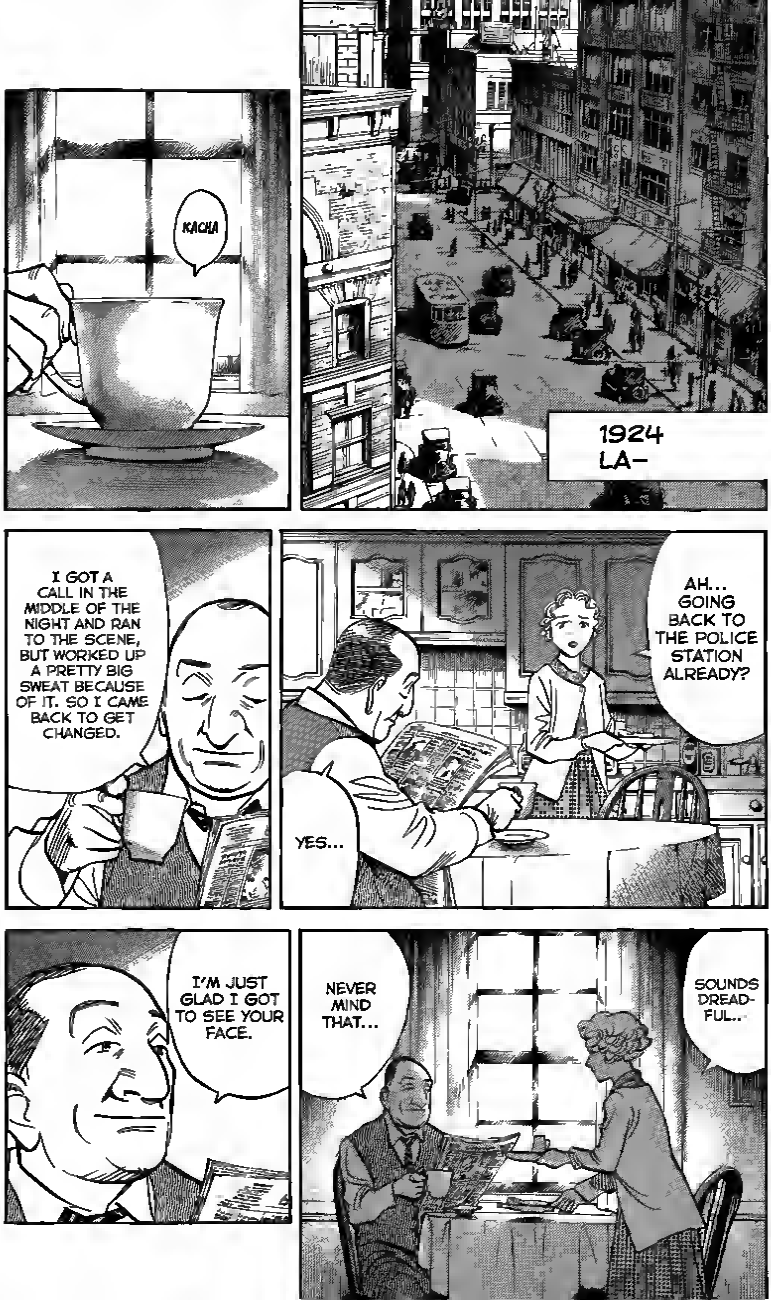
A SHORT SWORD, HUH...? YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE A SAMURAI.


I SEE. THEY ARE MAGNIFICENT BUDDHA.
I WOULD LIKE THE SCROLL.
IF I WERE THAT KOUMORI KANBEI OR WHATEVER IT WAS, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT FROM ME?
WH... WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?
YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED AN ORDER TO HAND OVER THE SCROLL TO ME.
?
.....
WHERE DID YOU HIDE THE SCROLL?
5

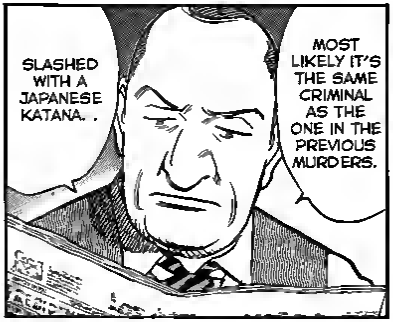
WHAT DOES MATTER IS WHY A SHINOBI OF YOUR CALIBER CONTINUES TO CARVE BUDDHAS.
IT DOES NOT MATTER WHO I AM.
N-NO!
THE ANSWER IS THERE.
.....
N-NUH.
I'M RIGHT ON THE MARK, AREN'T I, KANBEI-DONO?

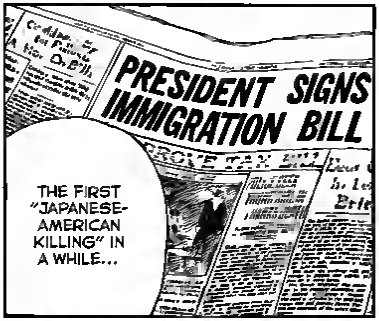


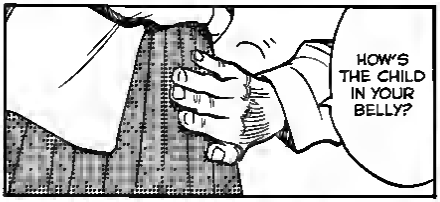
ON A NEVER BEFORE SEEN SCALE, A SUPER HISTORICAL SUSPENSE WHERE YOU CAN'T PREDICT ANYONE'S FUTURE!!! WITH GREAT FANFARE FOR THE WEEKLY SERIALIZATION!!!

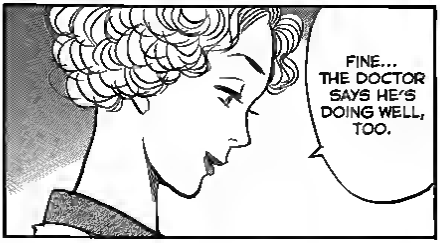

KACHA
1924
LA-
I GOT A CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND RAN TO THE SCENE, BUT WORKED UP A PRETTY BIG SWEAT BECAUSE OF IT. SO I CAME BACK TO GET CHANGED.
AH... GOING BACK TO THE POLICE STATION ALREADY?
YES...
I'M JUST GLAD I GOT TO SEE YOUR FACE.
NEVER MIND THAT...
SOUNDS DREAD-FUL...

HM...? YES.
AGAIN, HUH...?


SLASHED WITH A JAPANESE KATANA. .
MOST LIKELY IT'S THE SAME CRIMINAL AS THE ONE IN THE PREVIOUS MURDERS.


PRESIDENT SIGNS IMMIGRATION BILL
THE FIRST "JAPANESE-AMERICAN KILLING" IN A WHILE...


HOW'S THE CHILD IN YOUR BELLY?


FINE... THE DOCTOR SAYS HE'S DOING WELL, TOO.

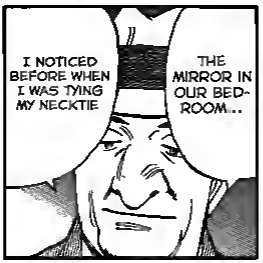
AH... I'M SORRY, TALKING ABOUT SUCH A GRUESOME STORY...

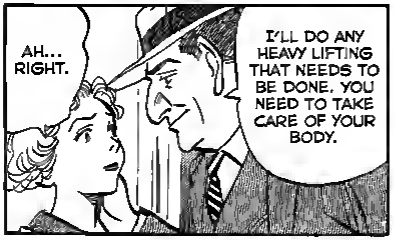
I'M SET ON A NAME IF IT'S A BOY.
WHAT'S THE NAME?
BOY...?
WE'VE GOTTA THINK OF A NAME.
BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'S A BOY OR A GIRL YET.
OH...
IT'S A SECRET.
IT'S AN OLD SONG HANDED DOWN IN CONNECTICUT THAT MY GRANDMOTHER TAUGHT ME.
HEH. I'VE NEVER HEARD YOU SING.
I HAVE A LULLABY I'LL BE SINGING TO THIS CHILD.
IT'S A SECRET.
OH... WHAT KIND OF SONG IS IT?

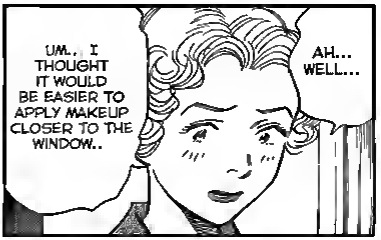
WHAT?
YOU MOVED IT, DIDN'T YOU?

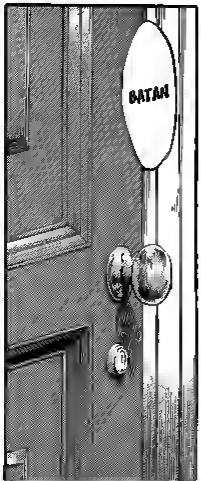
WELL, I'VE GOT TO GET GOING.
TAKE CARE.

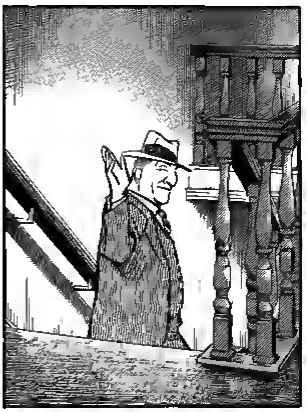
AH...

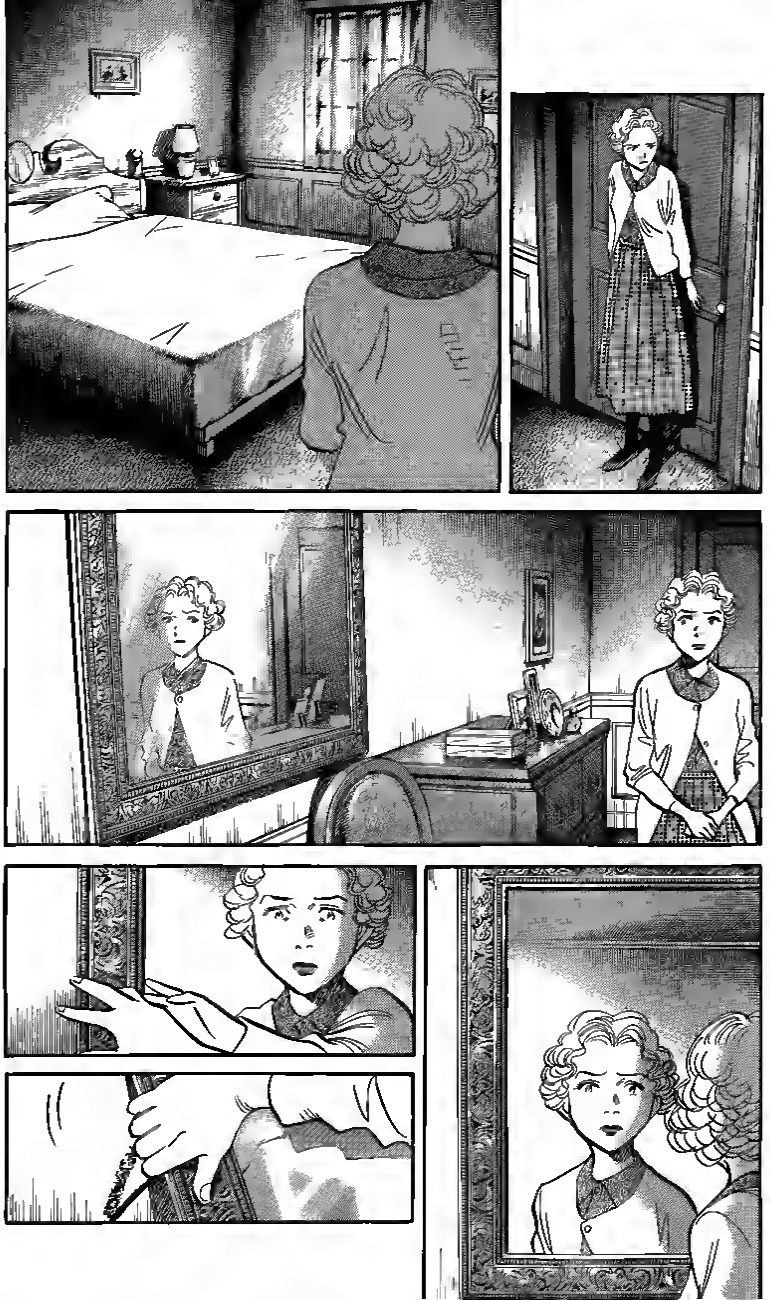

I NOTICED BEFORE WHEN I WAS TYING MY NECKTIE
THE MIRROR IN OUR BEDROOM...


AH... RIGHT.
I'LL DO ANY HEAVY LIFTING THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY.


UM., I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO APPLY MAKEUP CLOSER TO THE WINDOW..
AH... WELL...


BATAN





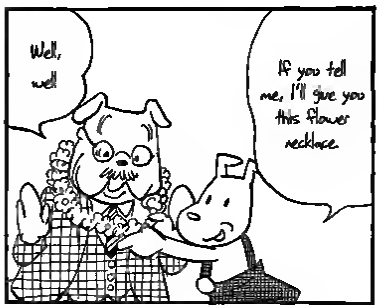
KILL...?
IT'S USELESS.
YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF PERSON THAT COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY TO TALK ME OUT OF IT,
IF I GET MY ORDERS FROM MY DISCIPLE ZOFUU, I'LL KILL YOU ALL IMMEDIATELY.
NO!
YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND, YOU'RE NOT A MURDERER!

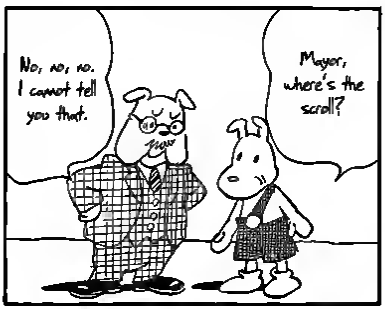
I'M A CARTOONIST.
ARE YOU...?
WHAT...
.....!!
.....?
IT'S MY COMIC.
READ THIS.
.....!!
BASAH

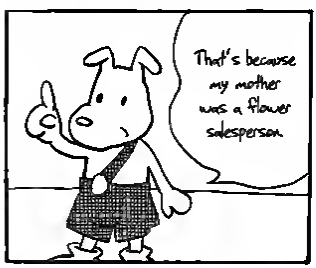
YOUR SON WHO'S GOING TO BE BORN IS DRAWN IN THERE.
C...CARTOONIST?
YEAH. IT'S A BOY.
SON?
IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR NOT...? IS WHAT I'M SAYING IS TRUE OR NOT...?
AND I DREW WHAT'LL HAPPEN WHEN THAT BOY GROWS UP.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION

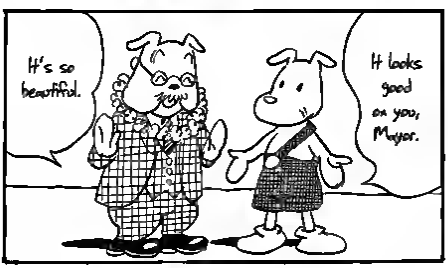
ONLY TIME WILL TELL.
BUT WHEN THAT TIME COMES... IT'LL BE TOO LATE.
HUH?
GET ME A HAMMER AND NAIL.
IF YOU TELL YOUR HUSBAND ABOUT ME, I'LL KILL YOU.
I'M GOING TO MOVE THE MIRROR TO HIDE THIS PICTURE.

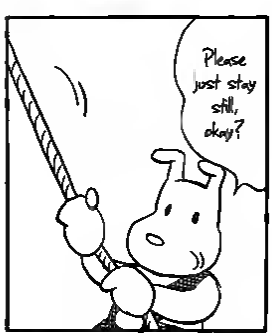
Gl...
IS DRAWN IN HERE...
MY SON, AFTER HE'S BORN—

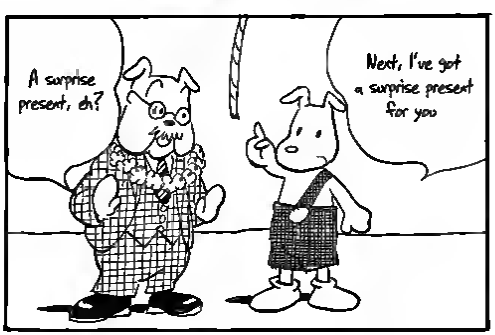

Well, well
If you tell me, I'll give you this flower necklace.

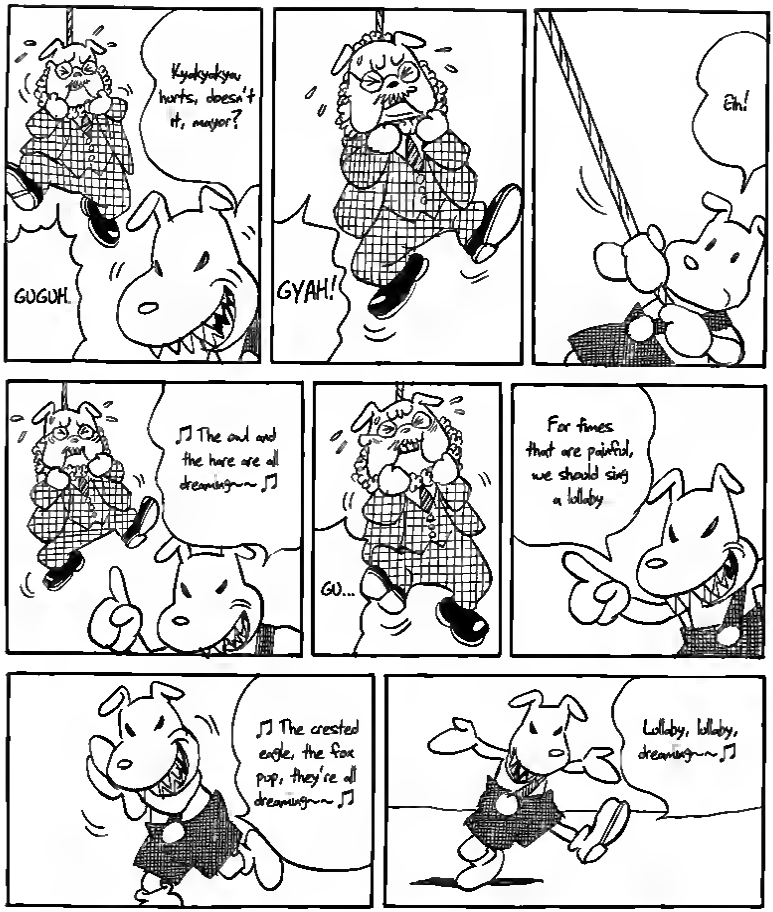

No, no, no. I cannot tell you that.
Mayor, where's the scroll?


That's because my mother was a flower salesperson.


It's so beautiful.
It looks good on you, Mayor.

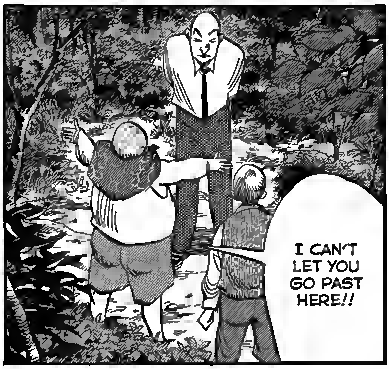

Please just stay still, okay?

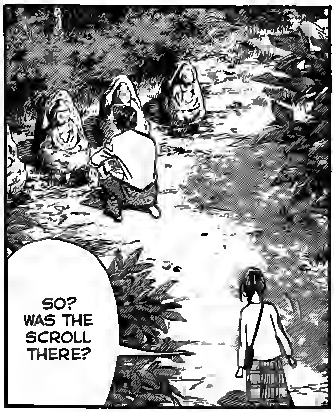

A surprise present, eh?
Next, I've got a surprise present for you


Kyuksyukyu, hurts, doesn't it, mayor?
GUGUH.
GYAH!
Eh!
♫ The owl and the hare are all dreaming~~ ♫
GU...
For times that are painful, we should sing a lullaby
♫ The crested eagle, the fox pup, they're all dreaming~~ ♫
Lullaby, lullaby, dreaming~~♫
DREAMING~♫
LULLABY, LULLABY,

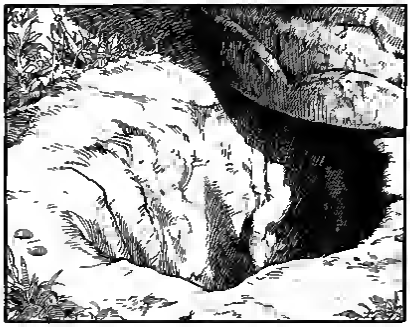
LULLABY, LULLABY...
THE CRESCENT MOON AND BIG DIPPER ARE ALL DREAMING~~♫
MY GRAND-MOTHER'S LULLABY FROM CONNECTI-CUT...
YOUR SON WHO'S GOING TO BE BORN IS DRAWN IN THERE.

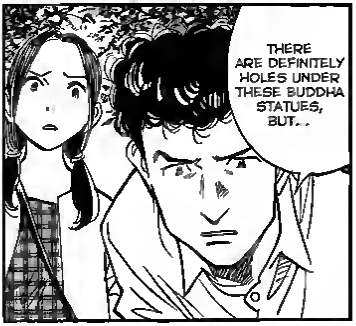
HOW ABOUT IT, JACKIE? FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

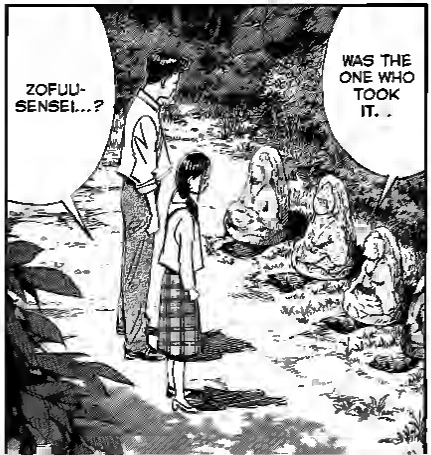

I CAN'T LET YOU GO PAST HERE!!


SO? WAS THE SCROLL THERE?

YEAH, WE'RE LOOKING NOW.

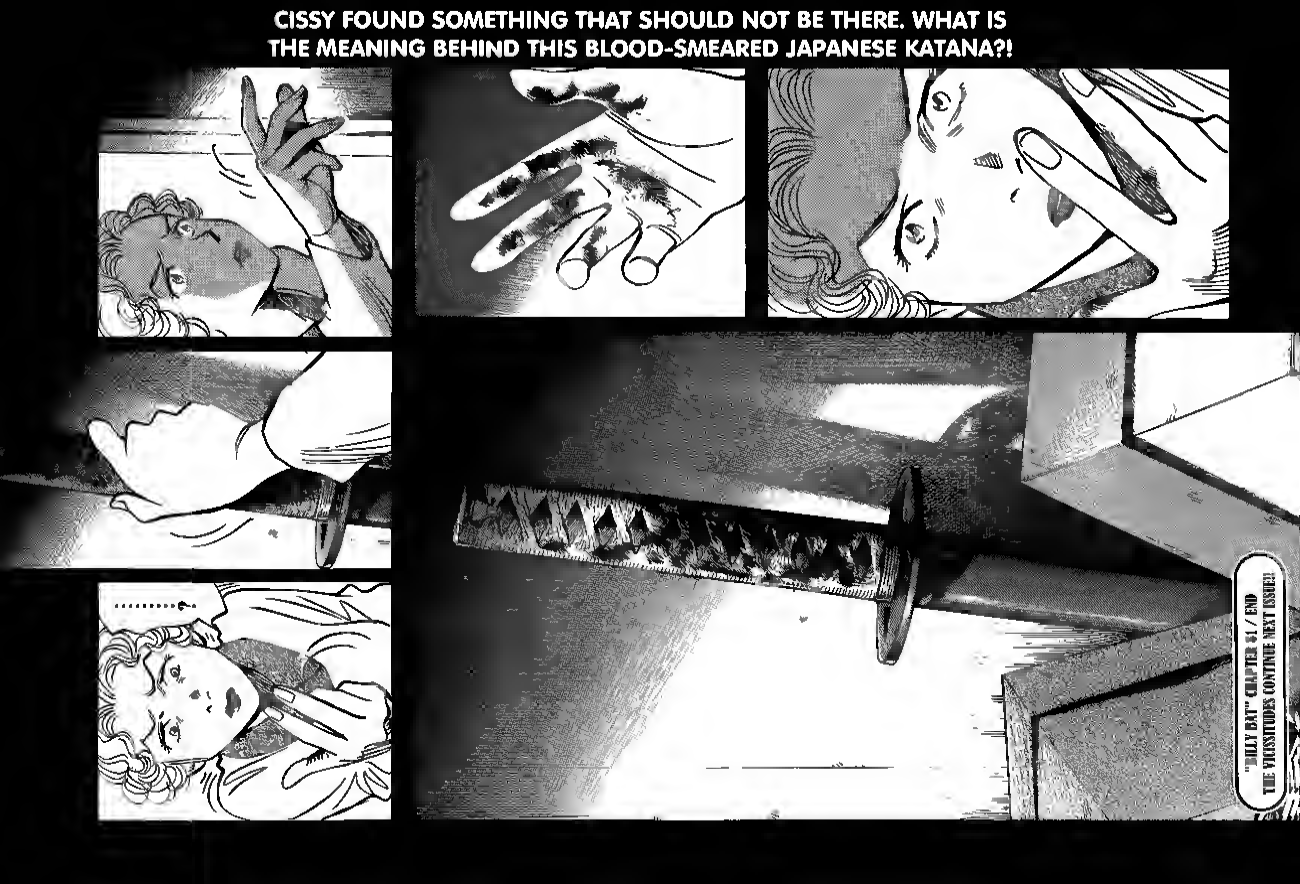



THERE ARE DEFINITELY HOLES UNDER THESE BUDDHA STATUES, BUT...


ZOFUU-SENSEI...?
WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK IT...

THEY'RE EMPTY.

IT CAN'T BE...
NO...
KUSHAN
MY SON, A MURDERER...?
GATA TAN
GUH
THAT JUST CAN'T BE TRUE!!
GUH


CISSY FOUND SOMETHING THAT SHOULD NOT BE THERE. WHAT IS THE MEANING BEHIND THIS BLOOD-SMEARED JAPANESE KATANA?!
"BILLY BAT" CHAPTER 61 / END
THE VIGILANTIDES CONTINUE NEXT ISSUE!!